

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The A toner conveyance device of claim 1, further for conveying toner particles, comprising:~~  
~~a toner mixing unit which includes a toner introducing portion to introduce toner particles, and which mixes the toner particles introduced from the toner introducing portion with air to make a toner fluid;~~  
~~a first conveyor for receiving the toner fluid produced in the toner mixing unit and conveying the toner fluid;~~  
~~a toner separation unit which separates the toner fluid conveyed by the first conveyor into the air and the toner particles, and which includes a toner discharging portion for discharging the separated toner particles;~~  
~~a second conveyor for conveying the air separated by the toner separation unit back to the toner mixing unit;~~  
~~a tightly closed circulation path for the air, which starts at the toner mixing unit, leads to the toner separation unit through the first conveyor, and returns to the toner mixing unit through the second conveyor; and~~  
a controller for detecting a conveyance amount of the toner

20 fluid of by the first conveyor and controlling a conveyance amount of the air of by the second conveyor based on the basis of the conveyance amount of the toner fluid.

3. (Currently Amended) The toner conveyance device of claim 2, wherein the controller ~~detects the conveyance amount of the toner fluid of the first conveyor and controls to make constant~~ a ratio of the conveyance amount of the toner fluid to the conveyance amount of the air of by the second conveyor to be constant.

4. (Currently Amended) The toner conveyance device of claim 2, wherein ~~the controller detects the conveyance amount of the toner fluid of the first conveyor, and when the conveyance amount of the toner fluid is not greater than a target conveyance amount, the controller increases the conveyance amount of the air of by the second conveyor.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The toner conveyance device of claim 2, wherein ~~the controller detects the conveyance amount of the toner fluid of the first conveyor, and when the conveyance amount of the toner fluid is not greater than a target conveyance amount, the controller stops the first conveyor and the second conveyor.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The toner conveyance device of  
claim 2, further comprising a warning device for giving a warning  
~~, wherein the controller detects the conveyance amount of the  
toner fluid of the first conveyor, and when the conveyance amount  
of the toner fluid is not greater than a target conveyance amount  
, the controller controls the warning device to give a warning.~~  
5

7. (Currently Amended) The toner conveyance device of  
claim 2, wherein the controller controls a toner introduction  
amount ~~of~~ by the toner introducing portion based on ~~the basis of~~  
the conveyance amount of the toner fluid ~~of~~ by the first  
conveyor.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ toner conveyance device ~~of~~  
~~claim 1, the for conveying toner particles, comprising:~~  
~~a toner mixing unit which includes a toner introducing~~  
~~portion to introduce toner particles, and which mixes the toner~~  
5 ~~particles introduced from the toner introducing portion with air~~  
~~to make a toner fluid;~~  
~~a first conveyor, which comprises a pump motor, for~~  
~~receiving the toner fluid produced in the toner mixing unit and~~  
~~conveying the toner fluid;~~

10        a toner separation unit which separates the toner fluid  
conveyed by the first conveyor into the air and the toner  
particles, and which includes a toner discharging portion for  
discharging the separated toner particles;  
  
15        a second conveyor, which comprises a pump motor, for  
conveying the air separated by the toner separation unit back to  
the toner mixing unit;  
  
20        a tightly closed circulation path for the air, which starts  
at the toner mixing unit, leads to the toner separation unit  
through the first conveyor, and returns to the toner mixing unit  
through the second conveyor; and  
  
      a controller which respectively detects and controls each of  
the a number of rotations of each said pump motors constituting  
motor of the first conveyor and the second conveyor –  
respectively.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A toner conveyance device of  
~~claim 1, for conveying toner particles, comprising:~~

5        a toner mixing unit which includes a toner introducing  
portion to introduce toner particles, and which mixes the toner  
particles introduced from the toner introducing portion with air  
to make a toner fluid;

a first conveyor for receiving the toner fluid produced in  
the toner mixing unit and conveying the toner fluid;

10        a toner separation unit which separates the toner fluid  
          conveyed by the first conveyor into the air and the toner  
          particles, and which includes a toner discharging portion for  
          discharging the separated toner particles;

15        a second conveyor for conveying the air separated by the  
          toner separation unit back to the toner mixing unit; and  
          a tightly closed circulation path for the air, which starts  
          at the toner mixing unit, leads to the toner separation unit  
          through the first conveyor, and returns to the toner mixing unit  
          through the second conveyor;

20        wherein each of the first conveyor and the second conveyor  
          has a conveyance path of toner particles, at least a part of each  
          said conveyance path is formed of by a flexible pipe at least  
          partially made of one of resin or and rubber, and a member made  
          of metal member is wound around an outer surface of at least a  
          part of the flexible pipe, and the metal member is grounded.

10. (Currently Amended) The toner conveyance device of  
claim 9, wherein at least a part of the flexible pipe is made of  
metal [[,]] and ~~the pipe made of metal is~~ grounded.

11. (Currently Amended) The toner conveyance device of  
claim 9, wherein at least a part of the flexible pipe is made of

~~a flexible member made of one of~~ silicone rubber ~~or and~~  
fluorinated resin.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The A toner conveyance device of~~  
~~claim 1, for conveying toner particles, comprising:~~

a toner mixing unit which includes a toner introducing  
portion to introduce toner particles, and which mixes the toner  
5 particles introduced from the toner introducing portion with air  
to make a toner fluid;

a first conveyor for receiving the toner fluid produced in  
the toner mixing unit and conveying the toner fluid;

a toner separation unit which separates the toner fluid  
10 conveyed by the first conveyor into the air and the toner  
particles, and which includes a toner discharging portion for  
discharging the separated toner particles;

a second conveyor for conveying the air separated by the  
toner separation unit back to the toner mixing unit; and

15 a tightly closed circulation path for the air, which starts  
at the toner mixing unit, leads to the toner separation unit  
through the first conveyor, and returns to the toner mixing unit  
through the second conveyor;

20 wherein the toner mixing unit has ~~comprises~~ a toner detector  
for detecting an amount of toner therein, and when the toner  
detector detects that an amount of toner accumulated in the toner

mixing unit exceeds a prescribed amount, ~~the a~~ controller stops the first conveyor and the second conveyor.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ toner conveyance device of claim 1, for conveying toner particles, comprising:

a toner mixing unit which includes a toner introducing portion to introduce toner particles, and which mixes the toner particles introduced from the toner introducing portion with air to make a toner fluid;

a first conveyor for receiving the toner fluid produced in the toner mixing unit and conveying the toner fluid;

10 a toner separation unit which separates the toner fluid conveyed by the first conveyor into the air and the toner particles, and which includes a toner discharging portion for discharging the separated toner particles;

a second conveyor for conveying the air separated by the toner separation unit back to the toner mixing unit; and

15 a tightly closed circulation path for the air, which starts at the toner mixing unit, leads to the toner separation unit through the first conveyor, and returns to the toner mixing unit through the second conveyor;

wherein the toner mixing unit has ~~comprises~~ a toner detector for detecting an amount of toner therein, and when the toner detector detects that an amount of toner accumulated in the toner

mixing unit exceeds a prescribed amount, ~~the a~~ controller gives a warning.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ toner conveyance device of claim 1, for conveying toner particles, comprising:

a toner mixing unit which includes a toner introducing portion to introduce toner particles, and which mixes the toner particles introduced from the toner introducing portion with air to make a toner fluid;

a first conveyor for receiving the toner fluid produced in the toner mixing unit and conveying the toner fluid;

10 a toner separation unit which separates the toner fluid conveyed by the first conveyor into the air and the toner particles, and which includes a toner discharging portion for discharging the separated toner particles;

a second conveyor for conveying the air separated by the toner separation unit back to the toner mixing unit; and

15 a tightly closed circulation path for the air, which starts at the toner mixing unit, leads to the toner separation unit through the first conveyor, and returns to the toner mixing unit through the second conveyor;

wherein the toner separation unit has comprises a toner detector for detecting an amount of toner therein, and when the toner detector detects that an amount of toner accumulated in the

toner separation unit exceeds a prescribed amount, ~~the a~~ controller stops the first conveyor and the second conveyor.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ toner conveyance device of claim 1, for conveying toner particles, comprising:

a toner mixing unit which includes a toner introducing portion to introduce toner particles, and which mixes the toner particles introduced from the toner introducing portion with air to make a toner fluid;

a first conveyor for receiving the toner fluid produced in the toner mixing unit and conveying the toner fluid;

10 a toner separation unit which separates the toner fluid conveyed by the first conveyor into the air and the toner particles, and which includes a toner discharging portion for discharging the separated toner particles;

a second conveyor for conveying the air separated by the toner separation unit back to the toner mixing unit; and

15 a tightly closed circulation path for the air, which starts at the toner mixing unit, leads to the toner separation unit through the first conveyor, and returns to the toner mixing unit through the second conveyor;

wherein the toner separation unit ~~has~~ comprises a toner detector for detecting an amount of toner therein, and when the toner detector detects that an amount of toner accumulated in the

toner separation unit exceeds a prescribed amount, ~~the a~~ controller gives a warning.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ toner conveyance device of claim 1, for conveying toner particles, comprising:

a toner mixing unit which includes a toner introducing portion to introduce toner particles, and which mixes the toner particles introduced from the toner introducing portion with air to make a toner fluid;

a first conveyor for receiving the toner fluid produced in the toner mixing unit and conveying the toner fluid;

10 a toner separation unit which separates the toner fluid conveyed by the first conveyor into the air and the toner particles, and which includes a toner discharging portion for discharging the separated toner particles;

a second conveyor for conveying the air separated by the toner separation unit back to the toner mixing unit; and

15 a tightly closed circulation path for the air, which starts at the toner mixing unit, leads to the toner separation unit through the first conveyor, and returns to the toner mixing unit through the second conveyor;

wherein the toner separation unit has comprises a through 20 passage for ~~making~~ causing the toner fluid to meander.

17. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising ~~a~~ the toner conveyance device as set forth in claim [[1]] 2.

18. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising the toner conveyance device as set forth in claim 8.

19. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising the toner conveyance device as set forth in claim 9.

20. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising the toner conveyance device as set forth in claim 12.

21. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising the toner conveyance device as set forth in claim 13.

22. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising the toner conveyance device as set forth in claim 14.

23. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising the toner conveyance device as set forth in claim 15.

24. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising the toner conveyance device as set forth in claim 16.